

Thank you for putting this petition up for review.

I believe that we should retain the Morse proficiency examination.

Continuous Wave, known as Morse code, is one of the foundations of the amateur radio service. Another foundation is to increase the number of TRAINED amateur radio operators. To take away the foundation from anything causes it to become weak and destruction occurs.

We have already dropped the speed down to 5 words per minute to aid people in testing. If we take that away, how do we train new amateur radio operators?

Morse is a type of emission that does not need much power to communicate. Side Band operations require more power than Morse code, and are also effected more by noise.

During emergency communications Morse does not have to be repeated. Sometimes noise makes it difficult to “copy” on Side band therefore the transmissions take longer to complete.

I do not believe that the amateur radio service has enough band spectrum to allow the operators, without Morse proficiency, into the HF bands.

Morse code operators use the frequencies more often than Side band operators do. Code operators are on the air helping others to send and receive Morse code more effectively. Side band is used mostly for contests and some “rag chewing”.

Have you ever done a demonstration of Morse and Side band? People are always interested in Continuous Wave because it is not something they hear every day. Anyone can pick up a microphone and talk. These demonstrations are for both adults and children to draw more interest in the amateur radio service. I know that Morse is still printed on walkie-talkies.

If the Morse proficiency examination is not retained this service will, in time, turn into nothing more than glorified Citizens Band.

I am not just a Morse operator but also enjoy contesting on Side band too. I am not extremely proficient at Morse but slowly am increasing my speed of sending and my “copy”. I also am an Extra Class Volunteer Examiner and have participated in testing. At our test site more people upgrade to Morse than those who choose not to.

The United States of America should retain the Morse proficiency examination. We have always been a country that has been in the forefront of technology and experimentation so if we follow other countries, in dropping this requirement, we will now be in their footsteps instead of leading technology.

